

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-04 /088 W
-----071243 290511Z /16

R 271842Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4936
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 02725

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, VN, CB
SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE DIPLOMAT'S COMMENT ON
VN/KAMPUCHEAN CONFLICT

1. FOLLOWING A CONVERSATION ABOUT ANOTHER SUBJECT, A VIETNAMESE DIPLOMAT RAISED THE VIETNAMESE/KAMPUCHEAN BORDER CONFLICT. HE SAID THAT THE REASON FOR THE KAMPUCHEAN ATTACKS ALONG THE BORDER WAS NOT TO BE FOUND IN FRONTIER DIFFERENCES; IT WAS IN POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITHIN KAMPUCHEA. KAMPUCHEA WAS SEEKING EXTERNAL CONFLICT TO SOLVE INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES. HE INSISTED THAT HANOI WISHED TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AND NOT THROUGH GUNS BECAUSE THERE HAD BEEN QUITE ENOUGH WAR IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD. HE NOTED THAT IT WAS ONE THING TO USE ARMS TO FREE ONE'S OWN COUNTRY, BUT IT WAS QUITE A DIFFERENT THING TO TRY TO OCCUPY AND MAKE CHANGES IN ANOTHER COUNTRY THROUGH ARMS. VN HAD NO INTENTION OF USING ITS MILITARY SUPERIORITY TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. THE DIPLOMAT NOTED THAT IF THERE WERE A GOOD NEIGHBOR SPIRIT (BON VOISINAGE) IT SHOULD BE
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POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCE THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AND WHILE WAITING, VIETNAM COULD CONTINUE TO DEFEND ITS BORDERS AS THEY HAD BEEN CLEARLY DEFINED IN THE PAST.

2. THE DIPLOMAT KNEW HE WAS BASICALLY REPEATING THE USUAL HANOI LINE, BUT HE TOOK PAINS TO DO SO

IN A LOW KEY AND TO OMIT THE HARSHER POSITIONS
IN RECENT SRV PRONOUNCEMENTS. WHILE INTERESTED
IN GETTING OUR VIEW OF THE CHINESE, HE DID NOT
VOICE ANY CRITICISM OF PEKING OR HINT AT A CHINESE
ROLE IN STARTING OR ENDING THE CONFLICT. HE
TREATED THE AFFAIR AS ONE WHICH HANOI KNEW IT COULD
CONTROL.
HARTMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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